



The Trumpet

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Missouri Elects New State Director for Missouri Valley Division - IAFC

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Please join us in congratulating Fire Chief Rick Poeschl as our new MO State Director to the Division.

Chief Poeschl has been with the Lee's Summit Fire Department for 26 years and actively participates in local, regional, and State organizations.

Chief Poeschl is filling the vacancy created by Chief Mike Snider who was elected as 2nd Vice President of the Division at the conference in Sioux Falls. Congratulations Chief Poeschl!

Something is Blowing in the Wind

By Chief D. Hall

As a Fire Chief, our job is to protect our citizens from a variety of hazards. You may not know, but the International Fire Code places the responsibility for tent safety with the fire department. After the tent collapse that resulted in one death in St. Louis a few years back, I started paying more attention to this issue and realized how big it is. At first, we were primarily concerned with the typical fire safety stuff: egress, extinguishers, flammability, and the blocking of fire lanes. We quickly re-

alized the real risk is with the tents being inappropriately secured, which is leading to collapses, injuries, and deaths across the country. During the time the Springfield Fire Department has worked on this issue, a tent at Branson and one in Rogers Arkansas blew away. After that, the Branson Fire Department began working closely with us as well to avoid a repeat. This will allow us to coordinate code changes that will be needed because the current code is very vague,

only requiring that they be "adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather to prevent against collapsing". So I ask, "How is a Fire Marshal to know what adequate is?"

Having spent untold hours researching this topic and working with an engineer to determine what it takes to properly secure a tent, we have found many are so under-secured it is shocking we

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Summer Flooding Strikes DeSoto Rural



July certainly came in like a lion in 2015 with torrential rains and flash flooding that required first responders to effect multiple rescues of persons both swept away and trapped in their homes and cars, including family members of one of the fire fighters.

The flooding claimed two lives as Buck Creek swelled to a level never seen before. Both victims were female in separate vehicles that were caught in the floods and carried downstream. Searchers immediately began looking for the victims but were unable to continue due to the debris and treacherous conditions in the wake of the floods.

First responders consisting of Fire, EMS, Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies and Missouri State Highway Patrol officers using dogs and UTV's began the search again at daylight. The first victim was located approximately one mile from the point of entry and the second was over two miles downstream. The DeSoto

Rural Command/Auxiliary unit was used to manage the search while the Auxiliary members fed and hydrated some 150 plus personnel.

Multiple residences and business were damaged along with vehicles swept away. People lost farm machinery, outbuildings, tools, propane tanks and many livestock and pets, some of which were later found alive including a calf found on Saturday, July 18th more than two weeks after the flooding.

Most of those affected were without flood insurance because they either could not afford it or it wasn't available to them. Many people who have lived in the area for 50 plus years said the same thing "I've never seen anything like it".

One couple threw some things in their two Jeeps and they, along with their three dogs evacuated their home. After just leaving and driving along State Road P, what they referred to as a "wall of wa-

ter, like a tidal wave" took them both by surprise. The man climbed out of his car and got on the top and was trying to ride it out. It became lodged to a tree and he climbed up the tree. He was wearing a small headband light and he turned it on so it would blink. Two of our fire fighters saw the blinking light and managed to get a PFD to him and told him to continue to hang on to the tree. As soon as he had it on, he jumped in the water. Our fire fighters struggled to pull him to safety against the still strong current. His first words were, "my wife went in in front of me and all I could do was watch her tail-lights"!

Immediately we sent word to fire fighters downstream. At the same time, they were told by a bystander that they heard a woman screaming across the field and over by the creek. Fire fighters launched a swift water boat and were able to find

Submitted by: Fire Chief Paul Mayer,
De Soto Rural Fire District Continue Pg. 3



the woman who was frantic because she knew her husband was right behind her. After it was verified, we were able to tell them both that each other was okay.

The area received mutual aid from almost every department in Jefferson County as well as three Swift Water Strike Teams from Region C. An initial after action review is scheduled with the agencies that had jurisdiction, the dispatch center and County EMA. Information and lessons learned will be

disseminated and organized for a broader after action planning session. We continue to work with EMA and flood victims to provide SEMA and FEMA with assessments in the hope that the businesses and residents will get assistance. We still have people with no hot water or air conditioning. Area non-profits are taking donations of clothing, food, air conditioners etc. Area non-profits are taking donations of clothing, food, air conditioners etc. Call the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Services if you would like to help at 636-797-5381.

Water Rescues Keep Ozarks Fire Departments Busy

Submitted by Fire Chief David Hall Springfield F.D.

Most every year flooding occurs in the Ozarks; however, this year was certainly the extreme causing several Southwest Missouri fire departments to respond directly from one request to another making them feel as common as EMS calls. While a few of the incidents were people stranded from the static rise of waters, others were dramatic events where motorists were stranded in their cars on low-water bridges with water rushing past threatening to wash everything downstream. Likewise, some

were clinging to trees in the swollen rivers having decided it was a good time to go floating.

Between the Logan-Rogersville FPD, Battlefield FPD, Western-Taney County FPD, and the City of Springfield's water rescue teams, more than 20 people, one cat, and one dog were rescued, including five adults and three children that were in immediate peril of drowning. These teams performed flawlessly even in the extremely dangerous conditions made worse by dark-

ness. Statistically, a firefighter is 400 times more likely to lose their life at a water rescue than a fire. Additionally, many of the rescues were mutual aid assistance to neighboring jurisdictions. The Ozarks is a beautiful place to enjoy its natural streams, provided they are respected when the conditions as extreme. Fortunately, fire departments are prepared to respond when someone fails to appreciate the power of water.

Union F.P.D. Celebrates 125 Years of Service

Posted: Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:32 am

By Gregg Jones, Union Missourian Editor

Plans are heating up for the Union Fire Protection District's 125th anniversary.

There are events planned all day Saturday, beginning with a parade at 10 a.m., according to Fire Chief Russ Hamilton.

"The day's events will start with a parade of antique and modern fire apparatus from the area," he said. "Some of the antique apparatus go back as far as horse drawn days."

Hamilton added that there will be several unique cars from local owners and the Union Red and Black Brigade marching band.

The parade will start at Union High School, proceed down Main Street and end in the courthouse square where fire trucks and cars will remain so children of all ages to see them up close.

There also will be free games for children, including a fire extinguisher game and training, and a visit from Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Dog.

The public is invited to take part in firefighters games that will be held in downtown Union after the parade.

The firefighter games have been tailored to allow members of the public to participate.

"If you ever thought what would it be like to be a firefighter come on out Saturday," said Hamilton.

The main event will be a fire truck pull where a team of 12 people will see how fast they can pull a fire truck 75 feet.

"There will be fun for everybody," Hamilton added, "With the anticipation of warm weather kids will get an opportunity to man a fire hose and squirt some water."

There are food and drinks available for purchase.

That night there will be a banquet at the municipal auditorium to include a review of the last 125 years.

"One hundred and twenty five years of public service is a milestone for any fire service organization," Hamilton said.

"Looking back through the years leading up to today there are so many community fami-

lies and organizations that have contributed to the successes of the Union Fire service," he added. "The 125th celebration is an opportunity to say thank you to those families, organizations and our members."

About the District

Today the Union Fire Protection District provides fire protection to the Union community through education, enforcement, and suppression. The district's geographical boundaries consist of 96 square miles in the heart of Franklin County to include the city of Union and the surrounding unincorporated area.

Three fire stations located within the Union city limits serve a population of 20,000 residents, 7,000 residential homes, 800 commercial properties, and 11,000 property parcels.

There is a staff of 66 firefighters sworn to provide protection to the many homes and businesses in the community including the Franklin County courthouse and associated government buildings plus the East Central College campus. Other unique facilities include a rail line, a distributor of high explosives, four petroleum pipelines,

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10 state highways, one major interstate and 36 miles of river with four public access points.

The fire district is supported by a sales tax and property taxes. A three-director board oversees the finances and directs the affairs of the district.

The operational staff consists of 15 paid firefighters who are assigned to three shifts that rotate through the week providing 24/7 coverage.

The paid staff is supported by 26 volunteer firefighters.

The command staff consists of a fire chief, deputy chief, and two assistants. A group of 15 senior members provide guidance and support to the organization while junior firefighters, a full-time fire inspector, and an administrative secretary complete the district's personnel.

The district fire equipment includes three pumpers, two rescue trucks, one 75-foot ladder truck, two water tankers, three brush jeeps, two marine units, two command cars, one inspector vehicle and a tractor-drawn heavy rescue unit.

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have not had an incident. Additionally, many have gotten by with it for so long that they think changes are unnecessary. Nationally the tent industry recognizes this problem and has produced many guidelines and training to help avoid more disasters.

Changes are being proposed to update the codes to make them more stringent. Many fire departments across the nation are taking notice of this risk. If you are not one of them, I recommend you do some research and get informed.

Submitted by Fire chief David Hall

Springfield F.D.

Editor's Note: Go to: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/08/04/tent-collapses-with-250-inside-at-new-hampshire-> View: **At least 2 dead, 22 injured in New Hampshire tent collapse fairgrounds.**

Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs

Membership Application Information
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
P.O BOX 589
OAK GROVE, MO. 64075
(816) 690-6990 FAX (816) 690-6191

Mission

The Missouri Fire Chiefs of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is committed to communicating with, supporting of, and development of its members, through education, leadership, health and safety, and networking opportunities.

News

Fire Chief Position Open, City of Rolla F.D.
www.iafc.org

Inspectors Position Open. Independence F. D.
Contact Douglas Short, Deputy Chief of Administration
Independence Fire Department
816-325-7164



Look for us at
[www.mochiefs](http://www.mochiefs.org/)
.org/

Calendar of Events

Fire-Rescue International (FRI), Atlanta, GA
August 26-29, 2015
www.iafc.org/fri

Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Symposium, National Fire Academy
September 10—12
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/programs/efop_symposium.html

Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference
October 23–25, 2015
www.mufrti.org/conf/instructorconf.shtm